

Island Times



Environmental Investigation and Cleanup News Naval Station Treasure Island

Fall 2002

<http://www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/Environmental/TreasureIsland.htm>

This quarterly newsletter has been developed to update you about the Department of the Navy's (Navy's) recent environmental program activities taking place on Treasure Island (TI) and Yerba Buena Island (YBI). Environmental investigations and cleanup began on TI and YBI in the mid 1980's and continue today. The Navy is conducting these actions, with oversight provided by State and Federal environmental regulatory agencies.

Please share this information with family members, friends, and representatives from any local organizations that may benefit. Individuals, businesses, and organizations can receive future newsletters by completing and returning the mailing coupon found on the back page. We also welcome your comments on the newsletter.

TI/YBI HISTORICAL FACT QUESTION

*What do President Franklin D. Roosevelt,
Elvis Presley and Treasure Island
have in common?*

GROUNDWATER AT TREASURE ISLAND

What is groundwater?

Groundwater is water that has accumulated in the soils that form Treasure Island (TI). Groundwater is first encountered at depths ranging from about 3 to 8 feet below ground surface throughout TI. TI was originally constructed in 1936 and 1937 using sand fill that was dredged from San Francisco Bay. When the island was originally constructed, there was saline water from the Bay in the sand fill. This saline water is what comprised the groundwater beneath the island. Over time, fresh water from rainfall and irrigation accumulated in a thin lens that is now typically about 10 to 25 feet thick throughout. The fresh water is less dense than saline Bay water and therefore, sits on top of the saline groundwater. Groundwater flows from the center of the island toward the edge of the island. Ultimately, all groundwater at TI flows into the San Francisco Bay.

Is groundwater used at Treasure Island?

Because most groundwater at Treasure Island is too salty for human use, no water supply wells have ever been installed, nor are any proposed. Instead, the City of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (PUC) supplies all tap water to Treasure Island. Approximately 85% of the water in the PUC system comes from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada, while the remainder comes from water collected from Alameda County and Peninsula watersheds.

THE U.S. NAVY WANTS YOU:

The Treasure Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is looking for new Community Members. The RAB is a citizen's advisory group composed of representatives of the Community, Navy, Regulatory Agencies and the City. Meetings are held monthly on Treasure Island to discuss and comment on TI and YBI environmental cleanup activities, and to relay community interests and concerns to the Navy.

You can make a real difference in the environmental cleanup at TI and YBI. RAB member responsibilities include attending monthly meetings, reviewing and commenting on plans, and advising the Navy on environmental issues in the community.

RAB meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Casa de la Vista, Building 271, Palm Avenue, Treasure Island.

Technical experience is not required, only a desire to represent the community. Please see the RAB member application in this newsletter.

What is groundwater monitoring?

TI has a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program that has been ongoing since 1998. Monitoring wells are located throughout TI and are used to measure water levels and to collect groundwater samples. Groundwater is sampled using the most advanced sampling methods and equipment. The groundwater sampling program has been carefully designed and implemented to provide high quality water samples that are representative of groundwater conditions.

Once the samples are collected, they are stored in laboratory-certified, clean containers and placed in coolers with ice to preserve the samples during shipping to a laboratory. The samples are kept under a strict chain-of-custody from the time they are collected until they are analyzed in a California state certified laboratory. All groundwater samples are analyzed in the laboratory using standard analytical methods defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Why is the groundwater tested?

Groundwater is sampled and analyzed at Treasure Island to monitor the effects of naval training and industrial activities that took place when Treasure Island was an active Naval base. Although groundwater is not being used for drinking water, groundwater and the San Francisco Bay are protected under State and Federal laws. The sites where activities could have affected groundwater quality have been identified through a series of site assessments and investigations. At most sites, the groundwater has not been affected or the effects of previous naval training and industrial activities are minimal and the water quality meets accepted criteria for environmental protection. At other sites, groundwater cleanup is planned or ongoing. At the sites where groundwater is affected by past activities or groundwater cleanup continues, groundwater monitoring is ongoing.

Where is groundwater monitoring occurring and what has been found?

Groundwater monitoring is currently conducted at the sites shown on Figure 1 (page 3), along with the types of chemicals being monitored and the status of the site. During 2002, approximately 110 wells will be sampled under the groundwater monitoring program.

When is the groundwater tested?

Groundwater sampling is conducted four times a year at Treasure Island. Groundwater results are reviewed throughout the year and are used to plan the groundwater monitoring program for the next year. Individual wells are sampled one to four times a year based upon the sampling objectives for each well and a review of data from the previous year.

Who reviews the work?

Which agencies are working with the Navy at TI?

Throughout the year, the Navy produces groundwater monitoring plans and reports for Treasure Island that are reviewed by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), City of San Francisco, the U.S. EPA, and the Treasure Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). In addition, the groundwater monitoring program is internally audited on a periodic basis by Tetra Tech EM Inc. and the Navy Southwest Division Quality Assurance Officer to assure quality control and adherence to detailed sampling protocols. Various types of quality control samples are routinely collected to assess the accuracy of the laboratory results and all laboratory data go through an independent data validation process.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on the Treasure Island groundwater monitoring program, please contact Steve Edde of the Navy's Southwest Division by calling him at 415-743-4704 or sending an email to EddeSL@efdswnavfac.navy.mil. All of the groundwater monitoring documents can be reviewed at the Information Repositories listed on the final page of this newsletter. The Treasure Island RAB meets on a monthly basis at Treasure Island to review the progress of the Installation Restoration Program, which includes the groundwater monitoring program. Individuals are encouraged to attend the RAB meetings or to submit any questions or requests for further information to Mr. Steve Edde.

THE REGIONAL BOARD AND WATER QUALITY ISSUES AT TREASURE ISLAND

By Sarah Raker, San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board

To address water quality issues in California, the Legislature established the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards). The State Board is an agency within the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA). The State Board administers water rights, water pollution control, and water quality functions in the state. It provides policy and budgetary authority to the Regional Boards. The Regional Boards conduct planning, permitting, and enforcement activities under the authority of the federal Clean Water Act and the state Porter-Cologne Act.

The primary responsibility of the Regional Board is to protect the quality of the surface and groundwater within the Region for beneficial uses. This duty is carried out by formulating and adopting water quality plans for specific ground or surface water bodies, by prescribing and enforcing requirements on domestic and industrial waste dis-

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FIGURE 1 GROUNDWATER MONITORING STATUS

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chargers, and by requiring cleanup of water contamination and pollution. The San Francisco Regional Board jurisdiction includes San Francisco, San Pablo, Suisun, and Tomales Bays, all streams and rivers that flow into them, ocean waters, and groundwater. Treasure Island is located within the San Francisco Bay.

The Board consists of nine members who are appointed by the Governor. They meet once a month in a public meeting to make final regulatory decisions regarding water quality in the Region. The Board staff consists of about 150 people, including engineers, biologists, and geologists. The office is located at 1515 Clay Street, #1400, Oakland, CA 94612.

At Treasure Island, Regional Board staff work with local, state and federal agencies to oversee groundwater and surface water quality issues. These issues include discharge of groundwater to the Bay, groundwater monitoring, and leaking underground storage tanks, fuel pipelines and other petroleum related sources. Staff provide technical review, comments and recommendations on documents prepared for the remedial efforts at Treasure Island, participate in monthly project manager meetings with EPA, DTSC, and Navy officials, and attend Restoration Advisory Board Meetings.

Additional information about DTSC's and EPA's organization and responsibilities at Treasure Island will be provided in future Island Times articles.

For more information on the San Francisco Regional Board, visit our website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb2.

TI Team Member Profile: Sarah Raker

Treasure Island team member Sarah Raker has worked for the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and on the Treasure Island project, for two years now. The most challenging part of her job is "working with the Navy and other agencies to identify the most efficient and cost-effective methods for groundwater clean-up at TI". Sarah is a member of the Treasure Island Base Cleanup Team (BCT) as well as the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which is comprised of Navy staff, regulatory staff, and community members.

When asked about groundwater issues at Treasure Island, Sarah stated, "Although the groundwater conditions at Treasure Island are relatively simple, the historical activities and operations at TI are complex. Groundwater contamination is turning out to be more of a challenge to remediate than originally expected." For more information on the role of the RWQCB at Treasure Island, please see Sarah's article on page 2 of this newsletter.

Prior to her work at the RWQCB, Sarah spent 15 years working throughout California as a consultant in the private sector. Sarah has a B.S. in Geology from San Diego State University, and an M.S. in Geology from the University of Nevada, Reno. When



Sarah Raker

asked what she finds rewarding about her work at Treasure Island, Sarah stated, "I find it rewarding to be working with a very well organized and congenial team. We work together to develop work plans and prioritize field activities for soil and groundwater remediation. The Navy and their contractors have created useful tools to manage the complex paper work and schedules. At the end of the day, we're all working together to cleanup the groundwater at Treasure Island."

TI/YBI HISTORICAL FACT ANSWER

The former presidential yacht U.S.S. Potomac was temporarily berthed at Treasure Island in 1981 and then sank at the pier due to hull damage. It was refloated by the Navy and then sold to the Port of Oakland. The Potomac was originally built as the Coast Guard Cutter Electra in 1934. The Electra was transferred to the Navy in 1935, was renamed the Potomac and became the replacement to the then current presidential yacht Sequoia in 1936. President Roosevelt used the Potomac on a regular basis for the following five years. In August of 1941, FDR boarded the Potomac ostensibly for a fishing trip, but was then secretly transferred to the heavy cruiser U.S.S. Augusta that evening, which steamed north to Newfoundland. Meanwhile a Potomac crew member wearing the President's signature cape and waving the famous cigarette holder doubled as the chief executive. On that mission, FDR met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill for the first time, where the two world leaders forged the principles of the Atlantic Charter which formed the Allied partnership during World War II. The Potomac was later withdrawn from presidential service, was used by the Navy as a research ship, by the State of Maryland and then passed through a number of private owners, including Elvis Presley, who bought the Potomac and donated it to St. Jude's hospital in Memphis in 1964. The Potomac has been restored and is presently berthed at Jack London Square in Oakland where it is open to the public.

WEBSITE

The Navy has initiated a web page for the TI RAB.
You can find a listing of RAB meeting minutes, copies of fact sheets and newsletters, and other general information.

Please go to:

www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/treasureisland.htm

Information regarding other Navy RABs in California
can be found at:

www.efdswnavfac.navy.mil/environmental/rab.htm

UPCOMING RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB) MEETINGS

Date and Times:

Tuesday, November 19, 2002, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, December 17, 2002, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, January 21, 2003, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Place:

Casa de la Vista
Building 271
Treasure Island

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

The following information repositories are provided for the community to review current documents related
to environmental cleanup activities at TI:

Navy Southwest Detachment

410 Palm Avenue, Room 161, Building 1
Treasure Island, San Francisco, California
(415) 743-4704
Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

San Francisco Public Library

Government Publications Section
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, California
(415) 557-4400
Monday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
T/W/Th. - 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday – noon to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday – 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday – noon to 5:00 p.m.

HOW TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contacts

If you have questions about the information contained in this fact sheet,
you are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals:

Name/Title	Organization	Phone/Fax	Address	E-mail
James Sullivan BRAC Environmental Coordinator	Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division	(619) 532-0966 Fax: (619) 532-0983	1230 Columbia St., Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101	sullivanjb@efdswnavfac.navy.mil
Steve Edde Environmental Liaison	Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division	(415) 743-4704 Fax: (415) 743-4700	410 Palm Ave. Bldg. 1, Rm. 161 Treasure Island San Francisco, CA 94130	eddesl@efdswnavfac.navy.mil
Tom Pinard Public Affairs Officer	Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division	(415) 743-4733 Fax: (415) 743-4700	410 Palm Ave. Bldg. 1, Rm. 161 Treasure Island San Francisco, CA 94130	pinardtc@efdswnavfac.navy.mil
David Rist Remedial Project Manager	Department of Toxic Substances Control	(510) 540-3763 Fax: (510) 849-5285	700 Heinz Ave. Suite 200 Berkeley, CA 94710	drist@dtsc.ca.gov
Sarah Raker Remedial Project Manager	Regional Water Quality Control Board	(510) 622-2377 Fax: (510) 622-2460	1515 Clay St. Suite 1400 Oakland, CA 94612	slr@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov

Mailing Coupon

If you would like to be added to the TI/YBI mailing list and receive copies of future newsletters and fact sheets, please fill out the coupon below and mail it to:

Steve Edde
Navy Detachment
410 Palm Avenue
Room 161, Building 1
Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA 94130-1806

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

ADD MY NAME TO THE MAILING LIST ☐

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